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JOHN AND MARTHA DANIELS

A
SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
HISTORY
OF
BRITISH BIRDS.

THE FIGURES ENGRAVED ON WOOD BY T. BEWICK.

PART I.

CONTAINING THE

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF LAND BIRDS.



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A
SUPPLEMENT
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HISTORY
OF
British Land Birds.



THE ROUGH-LEGGED FALCON.

(Falco Lagopus.)

THE length of this bird from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail is twenty-two inches and a half;

breadth from tip to tip of the wings four feet four inches; weight two pounds and a half. The bill is slightly notched, short, and of a bluish black colour; cere yellow; irides pale yellow. The head is of a straw colour, streaked with narrow lines of brown; the breast and neck the same, but the streaks are broader; the middle of the belly to the thighs is of a chocolate brown; the back and wings the same, but the coverts are somewhat of a paler cast, the lesser edged with yellow, and the greater with rather undefined dirty or brownish white; the first and secondary quills are barred with brown; the upper coverts of the tail are white, with yellowish edges, and marked with longish pointed spots of brown; the under coverts are yellowish white; the tail feathers are white at the base, and irregularly barred alternately with deeper and lighter brown to near the end, where they are slightly tipped with dirty white; the long tufted feathers, which cover the thighs, are of a reddish or tawny yellow, streaked with spots of brown: the legs are of the same colour, and feathered to the toes: the toes are yellow and rather short; the claws are black and not much hooked.



THE ASH COLOURED FALCON.

(Falco tinnunculus.)

Mr Montagu gives a figure and description of this bird as one hitherto not noticed as a distinct species, and has with his usual minuteness detailed his reasons for thinking it is. He says, "that it has been long known and confounded with the Hen-Harrier, a proof of which is evident by the description of what Mr Pennant supposed a variety of the Ringtail." He adds, "that it is hardly necessary to remark that the bright ferruginous colour of the markings is always sufficient to discriminate this." In the adult male, these bright markings on the under parts of the body, and under the wings, and the black bars on the secondary quills, independent of the great difference in the tail, at once point out the distinction from the male Hen-Harrier. In the female, the uniform ferruginous colour of all the under parts is sufficient to discriminate it from the female Hen-Harrier, besides the colours being much brighter: and in the adolescent or changing state of the plumage, the same difference exists in the markings. These birds breed in the south of England, but whether they remain with us the whole year, has not been ascertained.





THE EAGLE OWL,

OR GREAT EARED OWL.

(*Strix Bubo*, Lin.—*Le Duc, ou Grand Duc*, Buff.)

THIS is the largest of the Owl genus, being almost

equal in size to an Eagle, and has a powerful as well as a dignified look. The bill is strong, much hooked, and black; the claws are the same; the irides are reddish orange; the legs are very stout, and covered with a great thickness of short mottled brown feathers; the toes are the same down to the claws. The predominant colours of the plumage are very dark brown and ferruginous, but they are mixed and beautifully variegated with markings and shades of black, brown, and yellow, with spots of white, crossed with zig-zag lines, and innumerable minute specklings of white, ash colour, and brown. The outline of our figure was taken from a living bird exhibited in a show, the markings of the plumage from a very ill stuffed specimen of the bird, which was taken on the coast of Norway, and obligingly lent to this work by Captain Wm Gilchrist, of this port. These birds are sometimes met with in the northern Scottish isles, where they prey upon Rabbits and Grouse, which are numerous there, but they are very rarely seen in England.





THE SNOWY OWL,

OR GREAT WHITE OWL.

(Strix Nyctia, Lin.)

On the authority of Mr Bullock, of the London Museum, we give this as a new species of British Owl. On his tour to the Orkney, Shetland, and the neighbouring isles, in the month of July, 1812, he discovered that these birds breed there, and live chiefly upon the rabbits,* which it appears are pretty abundant

* They are said also to live upon the Alpine hare, and the Ptarmigan and other birds.

in the warrens on the sea shores. He describes the male bird to be of an immaculate white, but observes that others of them are mottled with brown, and supposes them to be the female, or the young which have not attained to mature plumage. Montagu says this bird rather exceeds the Eagle Owl in size: that it measures nearly two feet in length, and sometimes weighs above three pounds; while Edwards and other ornithologists describe it as being less. The irides are yellow; the bill is black and nearly covered with feathers; the feet to the claws the same. In the stuffed specimen from which the above figure was sketched, the head, coverts, back, breast, and belly were thinly marked with brownish dusky spots; on the latter parts and sides, these spots assumed rather a more wavy shape, and the primary and secondary quills were somewhat barred near the tips. The abode of these birds is chiefly in the arctic regions; they are met with in Greenland, Hudson's Bay, Siberia, Lapland, Kamtschatka, Russia, Norway, and Sweden.





THE LITTLE OWL.

(*Strix Passerina*, Lin.—*La petite Chouette ou la Cleriche*, Daill.)

THE length of this bird is about nine and a half inches, breadth twenty-one and a half, and weight four ounces: the bill is of a light horn colour; irides pale yellow; the orbits black, and a patch or streak of that colour passes from underneath the eye to the beak. The circular feathers on the face are white, mixed or faintly streaked with pale brown, and surrounded with a border of black, somewhat divided by small spots of white; the head and neck are spotted with pale brown and white; the breast and belly are white, streaked and patched with various-sized spots of brown; the legs and vent are white; the back, wings, and tail are brown, somewhat inclining to olive, and prettily and distinctly marked with white spots. The legs and feet are covered with soft feathers down to

the claws. It frequents rocks, caverns, and ruined buildings, and makes its rudely constructed nest in the most retired places, and lays four or five eggs, spotted with white and yellow. It sees better in the day-time than other nocturnal birds, and it gives chase to small birds on the wing; it likewise feeds on mice, which it tears in pieces with its bill and claws, and swallows them by morsels: it is said to pluck the birds before it eats them, in which it differs from almost all the other Owls. It would appear from the accounts of ornithologists that this bird is seldom seen in Britain. The drawing from which our cut was engraved, was taken from a specimen shot at Widdrington, in Northumberland, in January, 1813, and we feel much obliged to Mr Richard Rutledge Wingate, of Newcastle, for his drawing, and the aid it affords us, to give so correct a representation of this bird.





THE LITTLE HORNED OWL.

(*Strix Scops*, Lin.—*L'e Scops*, on petit *Huc*, Buff.)

THIS is the smallest of the Owl kind: its bill is of a brown colour at the base, and paler at the tip: irides light yellow. The upper plumage appears of a brown colour, the under grey, but on nearer inspection the whole is prettily variegated with white spots, streaks, and bars of dusky brown, rufous and yellow, and almost every feather is speckled with white, brown, and grey; the circular feathers on the face are powdered with brown; the neck, head, and horns, or ear feathers, are much the same, but more distinctly marked with bars, streaks, and spots of white, yellow and brown; the back feathers and greater coverts of the wings are barred, streaked, and speckled with the same kind of colours, but are on their outer margins patched with spots of white: the greater quills are transversely barred on their outer webs with white and

freckled brown, and barred on the inner webs to their tips with the latter colour; the tail is barred nearly in the same way. The legs are covered to the toes with yellowish soft feathers spotted with brown; the toes are without feathers, and are also brown. The stuffed specimen of this rare and curious little bird, from which our figure and description were taken, was sent to the author by Mr Charles Fothergill, late of York: another of the same kind is now in the museum of P. J. Selby, Esq. of Thirsk House, Northumberland. There is also one in the museum of the Hon. Mr Liddell, of Ravensworth Castle.





THE ROSE COLOURED STARLING,
OR ROSE COLOURED OUZEL.

(*Turdus Rozus*, Lin.—*Le Merle Couleur de Rose*, Buff.)

THIS bird is about the size of the Starling, and seems the connecting link between that species and the Ouzels. The bill is blushed with red, and is slightly notched at the tip, from whence, to the corners of the mouth, it is nearly an inch and a quarter long; the irides are dark hazel. Length from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail about nine inches; weight rather more than two ounces and a half. The feathers on the head are long, forming a silky looking crest, and those on the fore part of the neck, partake of the same appearance. The head, crest, neck, wings, tail, and upper coverts, are black, glossed with shades of blue, purple and green: the back, rump, breast and belly, pale rose

colour. The tail consists of twelve feathers; the middle ones are somewhat shorter than those on the outside; its under coverts are black, very slightly edged and tipped with white. The legs, which are strong, are of a reddish colour; claws pale brown. The female is of an olive brown; all her quills and the tail are edged with pale or whitish brown; in our specimen the feathers on her head were divided from the brow to the hinder part. This beautiful bird is a rare visitant in this country.* It is found in various parts of Europe and Asia, and in most places is migratory. It seems to prefer the warmer climates. It is said to be fond of locusts, and frequents the places where these destructive insects abound, on which account it is held sacred by the inhabitants.

* A pair of them, male and female, were shot in the summer of 1817, in a ten-yard, in Newcastle; and another male and a young bird were shot out of a flock, at North Sunderland, County of Northumberland, in the month of July, 1817. We were favoured by the Hon. Mr Liddell, from his museum at Harbottle Castle, with the specimens, from which the foregoing figure was drawn.





THE BROWN STARLING,

OR SOLITARY THRUSH.

(*Turdus solitarius*.—*Le Merle solitaire*, Buff.)

THE above figure was taken from the stuffed specimen of a bird which was shot out of a flock, crossing the road at Kenton, Northumberland, in the month of September. It does not exactly correspond with the descriptions given of the solitary Thrush by Latham and Montagu, and theirs also differ from each other: our bird was not tinged with blue, neither had it the small whitish spots, which the former describes, nor the feathers of the back slightly tipped with pale brown, as noticed by the latter. In other respects, our bird does not differ materially from theirs. This bird is nearly of the same length as the Thrush, but not quite so bulky; the bill is dusky, and from the tip to the brow is about seven-eighths of an inch in length; it

is rather broad and flattened at the base, straight, and a little deflected at the tip, where it is very slightly notched. The nostrils (like those of the Starling) are guarded above by a prominent rim, and the upper mandible is elevated nearly on a line with the brow and crown of the head. The whole upper plumage is brown, with the scapulars, quills, greater coverts and tail distinctly edged with pale rusty brown, the last somewhat forked. The chin and the throat are dingy white, and mottled down the fore part of the neck with dull brown; the under parts are also of a dull brown, but streaked with white from below the breast to the vent; the legs and toes are larger and stronger than those of any of the Thrushes, and are of a yellow brown. Latham says, "this bird is frequent in France, Italy, the Isles of the Mediterranean and of the Archipelago, and other parts: where it is not only esteemed for its song, but held in veneration by most people, so as to think it almost sacrilege to take the nest, or kill the bird." They are said to frequent mountainous and rocky places, and to be always seen alone, except in the breeding season.* Their food consists chiefly of insects and berries. The young are easily brought up, and besides their sweet natural wild song, they may be taught to whistle tunes, and articulate words.

* Many kinds of birds, which at other times are seen only singly, or in pairs, are known to assemble together in great numbers in certain seasons, probably on the business of conferring together, of the mutual duty they have to take, and the districts they are destined to occupy.



THE MISSEL THRUSH,

MISSEL BIRD OR SHRETE.

(*Turdus viscivorus*, Lin.—*La Draine*, Buff.)

THE length of this bird is eleven inches and three quarters, and its breadth above eighteen. The bill is dusky; the base of the lower bill yellow; the eyes hazel; the head, back, and lesser coverts of the wings are of an olive brown, the latter tipped with dull brownish white; the lower part of the back and rump tinged with yellowish brown and ash; the cheeks are of a yellowish white, spotted with brown; the breast and belly pale yellow, marked with larger spots of a very dark brown; the quills are brown, with pale edges; tail feathers the same, the three outermost tipped with white; the legs are yellow; claws black. The female builds her nest mostly on low trees, or on

high bushes, and lays four or five eggs of a greenish blue colour, marked with red spots. The nest is made of moss, leaves, &c. lined with dry grass, and strengthened on the outside with small twigs. This species begins to sing early, often on the turn of the year in blowing showery weather, whence, in some places it is called the Storm-cock. Its note of anger is very loud and harsh, between a chatter and a shriek, which accounts for some of its names. It feeds on various kinds of berries, particularly those of the mountain ash, and the mistletoe. It was formerly believed that the latter plant was only propagated by the seed which passed the digestive organs of this bird, whence arose the proverb "*Turdus voluit sibi carat*," it likewise feeds on caterpillars and various kinds of insects, with which it also feeds its young. This bird is found in various parts of Europe, and is said to be migratory in some places, but continues in England the whole year, and frequently has two broods.





THE GOLDEN THRUSH,

OR GOLDEN ORIOLE; LATHAM, AND GOLDEN THRUSH,
EDWARDS.

(*Oriolus Gallula*, Lin.—*Le Loriot*, Buff.)

“THE bill of this genus is straight, conic, and very sharp pointed, edges cultrated, and inclining inwards; mandibles of equal length; nostrils small, placed at the base of the bill, and partly covered; tongue divided at the end; toes, three forward and one backward; the middle joined near the base to the outermost one. These birds are a noisy, gregarious, frugivorous, granivorous, and voracious race, very numerous, and often have pensile nests.” Latham notices forty-five distinct species, which are spread over the warmer climates of America, Asia, and Europe; they live on figs, grapes, and cherries, and also upon insects.

The Golden Thrush is about the size and shape of the Blackbird, but its bill is somewhat larger and

stronger; it is rather elevated and arched, and slightly notched at the tip, and, as well as the irides, is of a reddish colour; a patch or stroke of black covers the space between the corners of the mouth and the eyes, and this spot is thinly beset with a few hairs. The whole plumage, excepting the wings and tail, is of a pure yellow; the two latter are black, but are marked as follows:—The edge of the wing at the *abdo spuria*, is yellow, and a spot or patch of that colour is formed below, on the tips of the first series of the primary quills, or second bastard wing. The first quill of the primaries is remarkably short, the second is shorter than the third, and both the former are wholly black; the third and fourth are slightly edged with yellow on part of their outer webs; all the rest of the quills are more or less slightly tipped with yellow, and are glossed like satin on their undersides. The tail consists of twelve feathers; the two middle ones are black, slightly tipped with yellow; all the rest are more or less deeply marked with that colour, from their tips upwards. The legs are short, and, as well as the toes, are black, with the undersides wide or spread out, and have rather a coarse appearance; the claws are hooked and strong. The plumage of the female differs from that of the male. Where he is yellow, she is of a dull olive green; her wing coverts, secondary quills, and upper parts of the tail feathers, partake of the same colour, but are much darker; the quills and lower ends of the tail feathers are dusky, and, as well as the former, are all tipped, less or more, with pale dull yellow. The skin of the male was presented to this work by G. T. Fox, Esq. of Westoe: the bird was

shot as it was approaching our shore in the English channel.* A pair, male and female, were also lent for the same purpose, by the Honourable Mr Liddell, from his museum at Ravensworth Castle, and from these and the foregoing, our description and figure were taken. These birds are rare visitants in this country; they are often met with in the southern parts of Europe in the summer season. This species, as well as some others of the tribe, seems to partake of a middle nature between the Orioles and Thrushes, and Buffon has placed them as a connecting link before the latter.

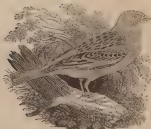
* We have also seen a female, which was taken in the latter part of the spring, much spent, in a garden at Tynemouth.



THE GILL BUNTING.

(Enderius Cirrhus, Lin.)

LATHAM says that these birds are found only in the warmer parts of France and Italy. Montagu, on the authority of Mr Audsley, as well as his own, makes them out to be British birds. He says, in "April, 1803, we observed a pair of Gills in the high road between Bridgewater and Glastonbury." "To the westward it has been clearly traced to Falmouth, in Cornwall; a specimen was in the collection of Colonel George, of Penryn, which was shot near that place." Latham describes this bird as follows:—"Size of a Yellow-hammer: length six inches and a quarter; bill cinereous brown; the head olive green, with a dusky line down the shaft of each feather; side of the head yellow, with a dash of black between the bill and eye; some markings of black on the ears; the chin is also black, passing a little backwards; the hind part of the neck, back, and rump, brown; the feathers dusky in the middle; the under parts from the chin, are yellow; the breast inclining to brown, and a few dusky streaks on the sides of the body; across the throat a yellow band; the tail is brown, edged with grey, the outer feather with white on the inner web for half the length; the outermost feather but one has also a spot of white in the same place, but of a much smaller size; the shape a little forked; the legs yellowish." "The female is not unlike the male on the upper parts; the under are yellow, streaked with dusky, and inclining to white at the chin and vent." They frequent newly ploughed lands, feeding on grain, worms, and insects.



THE GREEN-HEADED BUNTING.

(*Emberiza chlorocephala*, Lin.)

THE crew of a collier vessel caught this rare visitant at sea, as it was making its way to the shore, on the Yorkshire coast, after a severe storm of wind in the month of May, 1822. It lived a short time after it was brought to land, and after its death, was stuffed and presented to this work by G. T. Fox, Esq. of Westoe. It is about the size of the Yellow Bunting, its bill is of a dark reddish colour: the head and neck, as far as the breast, are of a lightish olive green, and in some lights seem very slightly tinged with pale ash. The chin and throat are of a pale greenish yellow; and a streak of the same colour falls down from the corners of the lower mandibles, before the auriculars. The breast and belly are of a lightish rusty chestnut; the vent and under coverts of the tail are the same,

but of a paler and more dingy cast; the feathers on the back, scapulars, and greater and lesser coverts are of a very dark brown in the middle, but the rest of the webs are much lighter and of a rusty brown; the lower part of the back and upper coverts of the tail are also of the latter colour; the quills and tail feathers are deepish brown, the former edged with light brown; the middle tail feathers the same; the rest plain, and the outer feathers are somewhat longer than the middle ones. The legs reddish yellow. Dr Latham says, this bird is in "the collection of M. Tunstall, Esq." "That figured in Brown's work, was caught in Mary-la-Bonne fields, by a bird catcher."





THE GREATER REDPOLE,

GREATER RED HEADED LINNET, OR BROWN LINNET.

(*Fringilla cannabina*, Lin. — *La grande Linotte des Figues*, Buff.)

THE length of this bird is five and a half inches; breadth nine and three quarters. The bill is thick at the base; the upper mandible dusky, the under one whitish. A pale brownish streak passes from the bill over and below each eye; the irides are dark; on the crown of the head is a bright crimson or lake-red coloured spot; the rest of the head is ash colour, striped with brown on the back part, and mottled with the same colours on the brow, and on each side of the crown; the chin is yellowish; the hinder part and sides of the neck are of a dingy ash; the fore part dull white, spotted with dark brown. The breast* is of the

* It loses the red breast in the autumn, and assumes it again in the spring; in this it differs from the Grey Linnet, whose plumage continues the same in all seasons.

same brilliant red as the crown of the head; the sides are of a pale reddish brown, fading into a dull white in the middle of the belly from the breast to the vent; the back, scapulars, and coverts of the wings are of a bright reddish brown, the middle of the feathers somewhat darker than the rest of the webs; the first quill feather is black, the eight next to it are the same, but white half their length on both the exterior and interior edges, the latter of which forms a stripe of that colour when the wing is closed. The tail is forked; the two middle feathers are narrow and pointed towards the tip, they are wholly black, the rest are also black, but edged with white on both the outer and inner edges: the legs are dull brown. The female is without the red on her head and breast, in other respects her plumage is nearly the same as that of the male, but much less brilliant. In a wild state this charming bird wastes the sweetness of its song on "the desert air," amidst "the blossomed furze, unprofusely gay," on the fells or heathy wastes which it almost constantly inhabits. There they build their nests and rear their young, concealed in the prickly close branches of the whin. The nest is composed of the stems of dry grass, mixed with a little moss, and lined with horse hair. The female commonly lays five eggs: they are white, with a zone of freckles and small brown spots near the thicker end.





THE MOUNTAIN LINNET,

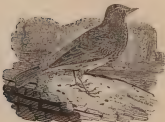
OR TWITE.

(*Linnaea Montana*.—*La Linotte de Montagne*, Buff.)

A pair of these birds, male and female, with their nest and six eggs, were obligingly presented to this work, by my late pupil, Mr John Laws, of Heddon Laws, Northumberland. He shot them on Callerton Fell, near their nest, on the 15th June, 1821; their stomachs were both filled with the seed of the dandelion. The male measured, stretched out, five inches in length and nine in breadth; the female was a little larger. The bill is thick and short, and of a pale flesh colour; the nostrils covered with a hairy kind of feathers; irides hazel; the space above and below the eye is of a pale tawny brown; the throat and fore part of the neck the same; the sides and hinder part of the latter is whitish, spotted with brown. The whole of the upper plumage is of a darker rust than the rest of

this genus, the middle of the feathers being dusky, edged with dull pale brown; the greater coverts are tipped with white; the primary and secondary quills are dusky, the former slightly edged on the exterior webs with pale brown, the latter with white; the tail is forked, and of a very dark brown, slightly edged half way to the tips with a lighter colour; and towards the base the outer webs are more distinctly margined with white, and the inner webs are still more deeply edged with that colour. The rump is of a bright lake coloured crimson; the breast and sides are pale dull brown, rather indistinctly marked with spots and stripes of a darker colour; the belly is of a pale silvery blue, the vent feathers are white with a streak of black down the middle one; the legs and toes are dusky. The female nearly resembles the male, only she is without the red feathers of the rump. These birds frequent the solitary wastes of moors and fells, and make their nest in the furze bushes, or near the tops of the tallest heath, with which these places abound. The nest is composed of a great quantity of heath and dry grass, and slightly lined with wool and feathers: the eggs are of a pale bluish green, spotted with brown. Dr Latham treats of the Twite as a variety of the Mountain Linnet, while Mr Pennant accounts it to be of the same species.





THE FIELD LARK,

OR ROCK LARK.

(*Alauda campestris*, Lin.—*La Spupalette*, Buff.)

THIS bird is six inches and seven-eighths in length, and eleven inches and three-eighths in breadth, being less than the Skylark, and larger than the Titlark. The bill is rather slender; irides hazel; a pale streak extends from the upper part of the beak over the eyes, and a dark one underneath; the plumage on the head, neck, back, wings, tertials, and tail, looks altogether of a deep olive brown, but on a nearer inspection, each feather is dark in the middle, and is of a lighter colour towards the edges; but the lower part of the back is not clouded, being of a more uniformly pale olive, or greenish brown; the two outside feathers of the tail are brownish white the whole length of their outer margins, and the inner web is of the same colour,

about half way from the end. In our figure, which was taken from a stuffed specimen, the tertial feathers were nearly the length of the quills, which latter are narrowly edged on the outer webs with pale greenish brown: the under parts, from the throat to the vent, are of a pale dingy yellow, spotted on the fore part of the neck, and clouded or striped on the breast and sides with olive brown. The legs are pale brownish red; the hind claws long and curved. This bird is by many called the Rock Lark, from its being mostly met with among the rocks on the promontories and isles near the sea shore: it builds its nest, commonly, in the crevices near the tops of those where the earth has crumbled down and made a lodgment: it is wholly composed of the small blades and stems of a good quantity of dried grass. The eggs, five in number, are closely speckled with ash, and sprinkled with small brown spots.





THE LESSER FIELD LARK,

OR TREE LARK.

(*Alauda Minor.*)

THIS bird measures six inches and three eighths in length, and ten inches in breadth. The upper mandible is dusky; the under one pale, with a blush of red: the upper part of the head, and hinder part of the neck are of a dingy light brown, streaked with very dark brown spots; the back feathers partake more of an olive colour, and are also streaked with dark brown; the lower part of the back, the rump, and upper tail coverts are dull olive brown, lightest on the edges; the tail feathers are deep brown, with lighter edges; the two outside ones dull white on the exterior margins and tips; and the two next to them are tipped with a spot of white; the chin, throat, and fore part of the neck and breast are of a dull yellow, the latter spotted with very dark brown; the belly and vent are of a

dingy white: the sides are reddish yellow, and marked with narrow streaks of brown: the ridge of the wings, and part of the lesser coverts are olive brown; the feathers next the greater coverts are dark brown, deeply edged with dull white; all the rest of the wing feathers are of a darkish brown, more or less margined with pale edges: the legs and toes are of a dull yellow.

This bird frequents woods and plantations, and sits on the highest branches of trees, whence it rises singing, to a considerable height, and descends slowly, with its wings set up and its tail spread out like a fan. Its note is full, clear, melodious, and peculiar to its kind. It builds its nest on the ground, commonly at the root of a bush, near the edge of a coppice or plantation. The outside is made of moss; the inside of the stems of dried grass, slightly bound together with a very few hairs. The eggs, seven in number, are blotched with deep vinous purple; the ground colour of them partakes of a tint of the same, but much paler.





THE SPOTTED FLYCATCHER.

HEAVY BIRD.

(*Muscicapa Griseola*, Lin.—*Le Gobe-mouche*, Buff.)

Length nearly five inches and three quarters: the bill is broad, flattened, and wide at the base, where it is beset with a few short bristles; a ridge runs along the upper mandible; both that and the under one are dusky at the tips, and the latter is yellowish towards the base; the inside of the mouth is yellow: all the upper plumage is of a mouse colour, darkest on the wings and tail: the head and neck are more or less obscurely spotted with dark brown; the wing coverts, secondary quills, and scapulars, are also dark brown, edged with dingy white; the under parts are of a very pale ash, or fawn coloured white, tinged with rufous on the sides and breast, which latter is marked with streaks of brown: the legs are short, and of a darkish colour.

The Flycatcher, of all our summer birds, is the most mute. It visits this island in the spring, and disappears in September. The female builds her nest commonly in gardens, on any projecting stone in a wall, or on the end of a beam, screened by the leaves of a vine, sweet-brier, or woodbine, and sometimes close to the post of a door, where people are going in and out all day long. The nest is rather carelessly made; it is composed chiefly of moss and dried grass, mixed in the inside with some wool, and a few hairs. She lays four or five eggs, of a dull white, closely spotted and blotched with rusty red. This bird feeds on insects, for which it sits watching on a branch or on a post, suddenly dropping down upon them, and catching them on the wing, and immediately rising, returns again to its station to wait for more. After the young have quitted the nest, the parent birds follow them from tree to tree, and watch them with the most sedulous attention. They feed them with the flies which flutter among the boughs beneath: or pursuing their insect prey with a quick irregular kind of flight, like that of a butterfly, to a greater distance, they immediately return as before described.





THE GRASSHOPPER WARBLER,

—MONTAGU ;

OR THE GRASSHOPPER LARK, —FENNANT.

(*Sylvia Locustella*, —*Fussetta Tachidula*, Buff.)

THIS bird is between five and six inches in length, and of a slender form. Its tail is of a uniform shape, rather long, as well as its legs; and its wings short, reaching very little beyond the base of the tail. The irides are hazel; upper mandible dusky, the under one yellowish white towards the base: a brown streak passes from the bill to the eye, and a white one above it; the crown of the head, hinder part of the neck, shoulders, and upper part of the back are brown, with a slight tinge of olive, and the middle of each feather dusky; the wings are nearly of the same colour, the feathers being dark in the middle and edged with pale brown; the lower part of the back, upper tail coverts,

and tail, are also pale brown: the throat and fore part of the neck are yellowish white, terminated by a few darkish spots on the upper part of the breast; the sides of the neck, and all the under parts are of a pale dingy yellow: the legs are also nearly of that colour.

This bird is seldom seen, and is best known by the lengthened grinding or sibilous noise which it is heard to make about the dusk of a still summer's evening. It is an artful bird, and sculks and screens itself from the sight of man, among old furze bushes, or in the thickest brakes and hedges, which it will not readily quit, nor be easily forced away. We were favoured with the drawing of the bird, from which our figure is taken, by Mr Richard Rutledge Wingate, of Newcastle, and also with a sight of its nest and eggs. The nest is composed of coarse dried grass, about three inches in thickness, but the space allotted for nidification is very shallow: it contained five beautiful eggs, the ground colour of which was white, but closely freckled all over with spots of a rufous hue. Mr W.'s account of the cunning manner in which it places its hidden nest, is very curious. He says, that having long wished to get the egg of this bird, to add to his curious collection, he at length, in June, 1815, after much watching, succeeded in *going* it to the distant passage on the top of a whin bush, by which it entered and left its nest. Its curious habitation he found was built at the bottom of a deep narrow furrow or ditch, overhung by the prickly branches of the whin, and grown over with thick coarse grass, matted together year after year, to the height of about two feet. Before he

could find the object of his pursuit, he searched until he was wearied ; and at length found that there was no other plan left but that of taking away the grass by piece-meal, which he was obliged to do before he succeeded in obtaining the prize.





THE LESSER WHITE-THROAT.

(*Motacilla sylvia*,—Lin.)

THIS bird is of a slender shape, like the Willow Wren, and from its shy and solitary disposition, is not often seen. By those who have watched its motions, it is described as darting like a mouse through the interior branches of the brakes and underwoods, among which it shelters itself. The length from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail, is four inches and seven-eighths, breadth seven inches and a quarter, weight six drachms. The irides are dark hazel; both mandibles are dark at the tips; the under one yellowish towards the base. The upper plumage is of a mouse coloured brown; the scapulars and quills nearly the same, edged with lighter brown; and the two outside feathers of the tail, with dull white: the under parts, from the chin to the vent, are more or less of a dull or silvery white; legs, toes, and claws brown.

Our figure was taken from a bird which was shot in the boundary hedge of Newcastle Town Moor, on the 2nd June, 1815, and presented to this work by Mr R. H. Wingate. Its nest was built in a woodbine bush, about a yard from the ground: it was of a slight fabric, composed of the dried stems of small grass, and curled small roots, and very thinly interwoven or lined with a few hairs. The eggs, five in number, were white, spotted with brown, and intermixed with other spots of a pale bluish ash. They are somewhat less than those of the Whitethroat's, and differently marked.





THE CRESTED TITMOUSE.

(*Parus Cristatus*, Lin.—*Le Moineau Huppé*.)

THIS solitary and shy species is somewhat larger than the blue Titmouse, being more than four inches and a half in length. It is distinguished from the rest of the genus by having its head ornamented with a peaked crest of black feathers, narrowly margined with white; those between the crest and the brow are of the same colour, but the white greatly predominates. The bill and irides are dusky; the cheeks, and sides of the head and neck are dull white; the chin, and fore part of the neck to the breast is black; from thence a line of the same colour branches off, and bounding the white part of the neck, extends to the hinder part of the head; the auriculars, with the exception of a white spot in the middle, are black, and form a patch of that colour, which is pointed off towards the nape; the

back and coverts are of a rusty dull brown; the quills and tail nearly the same, but more deeply tinged with the rust colour; the breast, belly, and sides also partake of the same colours, but are much paler; the legs are of a lead colour tinged with pale brown.

Some of the species have been met with in Scotland, but are considered as rare visitors. They are said to take up their abode in the deep recesses of the forests, in various parts of the continent of Europe, and to prefer the shelter of evergreen trees; but from their being of so retired a disposition, they are seldom seen there, even by the few whose business may lead them into these gloomy wilds.

The above figure was made from a stuffed specimen obligingly lent to this work by the Hon. H. T. Liddell, of Ravensworth Castle.





THE GUERNSEY PARTRIDGE,

OR RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE.

(*Tetrus rufus*, Lin.—*La Perdrix rouge*, Buff.)

A stuffed specimen, from which the above figure was taken, was lent to this work by Mr John Wingate, jun. of the Westgate, Newcastle. Latham describes this bird as being thirteen inches in length, but does not mention either its breadth or weight. The bill, legs, and eyelids are red; the irides hazel; the chin and throat are of a dull white, surrounded by a black line or streak, which passes from the brow and nostrils to the eyes, behind which it continues, falls down before the auriculars, and meets on the fore part of the neck: a white streak extends from the brow over the eyes towards the hinder part of the neck: the fore-

head &c. &c. buff ash, fading into a rusty chestnut before the neck; the feathers are somewhat elongated, and which form a crest or depress at pleasure; the lower part of the neck is of the last named colour, and is turned into a ruff, which falls down towards the shoulder; the rest of the neck is of a pale ash, inclining to blue, with numerous bluish spots of black; below this, to the shoulders and breast, the plumage is of a rusty brown, with a vinous reflection; the belly and thighs are of a pale rusty chestnut; the breast is of a pale lead colour; the sides are beautifully ornamented with stripes composed of black, bright reddish chestnut, and white; the upper parts of the plumage are rusty brown, somewhat tinged with olive grey; the quill nearly the same, but of a darker cast, with the outer edges yellowish; the vent brownish ash; the tail consists of sixteen feathers, the middle ones greyish rusty brown, the outer ones deep reddish chestnut; the under coverts of the tail nearly the same, the legs are furnished with a singular knob instead of a spur.

These birds are said to be found in various parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa; in Germany, France, and Italy: the islands of Madeira, Guernsey and Jersey; but the accounts of their breeding in England, are contradictory. In a wild state, it is said they prefer woody and heathy wastes, to inclosed ground, and that they are easily tamed, and soon become offensively familiar. Latham says they are "now and then met with in England, but do not breed there." Montagu says, "Notwithstanding many gentlemen have turned out the Red-legged Partridge upon their estates, with a view to propagate the species at large, few have suc-

ceeded." He then, in the next sentence says, "Mr Daniel assures us that they are now plentiful near Oxford, in Suffolk, by the Marquis of Hertford having imported many thousand eggs, which were hatched under hens, and liberated;" and that this gentleman found a covey of birds in 1777, near Colchester, consisting of fourteen, several of which he shot. It has been represented to the author by several of his friends, that these birds have become so numerous, in some of the eastern counties of England, that they have banished the native breed.





THE PRATINCOLE,

AUSTRIAN PRATINCOLE.

(Hirundo Pratincola, Lin.—La Prédraie de Mer, Buff.)

Bill short, strong, straight, hooked at the end; gape wide, nostrils near the base, linear, oblique; legs long and slender; toes connected by a membrane at the base; tail forked, consisting of twelve feathers. Latham notices only three species and four varieties of this genus of birds.

The Pratincole has not till lately been noticed as a British bird. Montagu says, one of them was shot near Liverpool, on the 18th May, 1804, and was taken to Mr Bullock* before it was cold, which specimen is now in the collection of Lord Stanley. It was shot in the act of taking beetles on the wing, the remains of which were found in its stomach. Mr Mon-

* Mr Bullock also met with one of these birds in the summer of 1812, in Ussé, one of the Shetland Isles.

tagu acknowledges his obligations also to Mr Vaughan, for another specimen from Senegal, exactly the same as the drawing sent to him by Lord Stanley. The stuffed specimen from which our figure and description were taken, was lent to this work by Mr John Wingate, jun. of the Westgate, Newcastle. The length is about ten inches; bill black and short; the upper mandible convex or hooked; the under one red at the base; the gape is wide; the irides are said to be reddish; the colour of the plumage on the upper parts is brown, but the crown of the head and neck are somewhat tinged with rufous; the primary quills dark brown, the secondaries paler and tipped with white; the throat is brownish buff; a black line begins in front of the eye, and passing underneath it before the auriculars, falls down and encircles the throat; below this to the breast, the feathers are of a rufous pale brown, fading into a buff on the lower part. The belly, sides of the rump, and upper and under coverts of the tail, are white; the feathers at the base of the tail are also white on both the outer and inner webs; the rest of the feathers are deep brown; the tail is much forked, and the two outside feathers are about an inch and a quarter longer than the rest; the wings, as well as the tail are long, and both are formed like those of the Swallow; the edge of the wing from the *alula sparva* to the greater coverts, is whitish; the under coverts of the wing are partly brown and partly bright ferruginous; the legs are long, and bare above the knees; toes brown, the claws slightly bent. These birds are said to inhabit Germany, particularly on the borders

of the Rhine, are sometimes seen in France, but are most plentiful in the deserts towards the Caspian Sea, frequenting the dry plains in great flocks. They are also common throughout the deserts of Independent Tartary, as far as the rivers Kamyschlosser and Irisk. They make their nest in holes, like the Sand Martin, in the sandy banks of rivers, and lay six or seven eggs.





THE GREY PLOVER.

(*Troglodytes Squatarola*, Lin.—*Le Pommou Plover*, Buff.)

THE length of this bird is about twelve inches. Its bill is black; the head, back, and wing coverts are of a dusky brown, edged with greenish ash colour, and some with white; the cheeks and throat are white, marked with oblong dusky spots; the belly, thighs, and rump are white; the sides are marked with a few dusky spots; the outer webs of the quills are black; the lower parts of the inner webs of the first four are white; the tail is marked with alternate bars of black and white: the legs are of a dull green: the hind toe is small. In the *Planches Enluminées* this bird is represented with eyes of an orange colour; there is likewise a dusky line extending from the bill underneath each eye, and a white one above it; but variations like these are common in many of the same species of birds.

We have placed this bird with the Plovers, as agreeing with them in every other respect but that of having a very small hind toe; this is so slight a difference as not to render it necessary to exclude this species from a place in the Plover family, to which it evidently belongs. The Grey Plover is not very common in Britain, but it sometimes appears in large flocks on the sea coasts: it is somewhat larger than the Golden Plover. Its flesh is said to be very delicate.



CONTENTS OF THE SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

BRITISH LAND BIRDS.

	PAGE
The Rough-legged Falcon	3
The Ash-coloured Falcon	5
The Eagle Owl	6
The Snowy Owl	8
The Little Owl	10
The Little Horned Owl	12
The Rose-coloured Starling	14
The Brown Starling	16
The Mistle Thrush	18
The Golden Thrush	20
The Cirl Bunting	23
The Green-headed Bunting	24
The Greater Redpoll	26
The Mountain Linnet	28
The Field Lark	30
The Lesser Field Lark	32
The Spotted Fly Catcher	34
The Grasshopper Warbler	36
The Lesser White Throat	39
The Crested Titmouse	41
The Guernsey Partridge	43
The Fraincole	46
The Grey Plover	49

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PART II.

CONTAINING THE

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF WATER BIRDS.



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A
SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
HISTORY
OF
British Water Birds.



THE OLIVACEOUS GALLINULE.

(*Gallinula Foljoubetii*.)

MR MONTAGU figures and describes this bird from a specimen in the museum of V. Foljoubet, Esq. of Osberton, as a species not noticed before. He also mentions another of the same kind being shot on the banks of the Thames, nearly about the same time that Mr

Foljambe got his bird. We think (according to his description) that it differs chiefly from the Little Gallinule in its being of a more plain plumage, being composed of deeper and lighter shades of cinereous olive brown, and in wanting the white spots and other markings of the latter bird, and in its being feathered nearer to the knees. Our drawing was made many years ago, from a stuffed specimen in the Wyndle museum, but we did not then venture upon describing it as a new species, and it is only from such authorities as Mr Foljambe and Mr Montagu that we now adopt the opinion. We had no opportunity of examining the under plumage of our bird, but the whole of the upper parts, from the head to the tail, were of a deep olive brown, with the middle of each feather more or less marked with a black or dusky colour.





THE LITTLE GALLINULE.

(*Gallinula minor*.)

THE above figure was taken from a stuffed specimen obligingly lent to this work by the Hon. H. T. Liddell, of Ravensworth Castle, and the weight and length are quoted from Mr Montagu's description, who treats of this bird as a hitherto undescribed species. We had, however, seen the bird some years ago: it was caught by the dogs of our friend, the late Lieut. Henry Forster Gibson, in a boggy place, covered with reeds and rushes, near the Tyne; we had no opportunity at the time of taking either a drawing or description from it, but recollect its being somewhat more distinctly and beautifully spotted than the specimen now before us. The weight two ounces; length seven inches and three quarters; the bill five eighths of an inch long, yellowish green at the tip, and dark

green at the base; the nostrils pervious, and the brow and crown very little elevated above the bill; the head small; the crown and nape deep brown, the sides of the former, both above and below the eye, ash or slate colour; the cheeks and throat dull white; the fore part of the neck pale ash; the under parts from the breast to the thighs inclusive, are a mixture of ash and pale brown; from thence to the vent, is deep brown, spotted with white; the hinder part of the neck and shoulders olive brown; the middle of the back, down nearly to the rump, is striped with black, olive brown and white, each feather being deeply margined on the outer webs with olive, the inner ones with white, and the middle with black; the quills are deep brown, with paler edges; the tail is short, and partakes of the colours just described; the legs and toes are green, the latter long, and the former bare three-eighths of an inch above the knees.



THE LITTLE WHITE HERON.

(*Ardea aquasectialis*, Lin.—*La Czarrette blanche*, Buff.)

THE length of this elegant little species is about twenty inches; the bill is two inches long, and of an orange yellow; the lore and orbits the same; the irides pale yellow; the crown of the head and upper part of the neck before are buff; on the back of the head the feathers are a little elongated; on the lower part of the neck the feathers are more elongated, and hang detached over the upper part of the breast; the tail is short and covered by the folded wings; the rest of the plumage is snowy white; legs three inches and a half long to the joint, and bare an inch and a half above it; they, as well as the toes and claws, are black, ringed with green, the middle claw pectinated. This rare bird was first brought into notice as a British bird by Mr Montagu, from whose description the above is extracted. He says it was shot on the southern-most promontory of Devonshire, very near the coast, between the Start and the Prawl.



THE SQUACCO HERON.

(*Ardea comata*, Pallas's Travels.—*Le Cicones*, Buff.)

LATHAM describes this bird as being rather less than a Crow. He says the "bill is livid red, with a brown tip; lore greenish; irides yellow; crown of the head much crested, six of the feathers hanging quite down to the back; these are narrow, white, margined with black; the neck and breast pale ferruginous; the feathers on the first very long and loose; back ferruginous, inclining to violet, and furnished with long narrow feathers, which reach beyond the wings when closed, and fall over them; wings, rump, tail, belly and vent, white; the tail pretty long; legs stout, of a greenish yellow; claw of the middle toe serrated within." "This is an elegant species, and inhabits the bays of the Caspian Sea, and the slow streams of the southern desert. It is also met with in Italy, about Bologna, where it is called Squacco, and is said to be a bold and courageous bird." In the Globe London newspaper, of the 4th December, 1820, it is stated that, "there has been taken within a few miles of Yarmouth, a male bird, of that very rare species, *Ardea comata*, of Pallas, or the Squacco Heron, of Latham." From this authority we venture to give it a place among British Birds.

THE FRECKLED HERON.

(Ardea lentiginosa.)

THE length is about twenty-three inches; the bill is rather slender, two inches and three-quarters long to the feathers on the forehead, and both mandibles equally turned to form the point; the upper mandible dusky; the lower one greenish yellow; the head is very small; the crown is chocolate brown, fading into a dull yellow at the nape, where the feathers are elongated; the chin and throat white, with a row of brown feathers down the middle; the cheeks are yellowish, with an obscure dusky line at the corner of each eye; the fore part and sides of the neck are of a pale dull yellow, with large chestnut coloured spots, the feathers long and hanging pendent over the breast; the hind neck is bare, and the feathers that fall over it are of a deeper hue than those on the other parts of the neck; the breast, belly, and sides are marked with large chocolate coloured spots, some of which are glossed with purple, and margined with dull yellow, while others are speckled with brown; the vent and under tail coverts are yellowish white; the back and scapulars are chocolate brown, with paler margins, minutely speckled; the coverts of the wings dull yellow, darkest in the middle of each feather, and are also prettily speckled on their margins; the first and second order of quills, and their greater coverts are of a dusky lead colour; the primaries and secondaries more or less tipped and speckled with brown; the tail is short, and,

as well as the tertials, is speckled with brown: the legs are three inches and three-quarters in length from the heel to the knees; the toes are long and slender, and the middle claw pectinated on the inner side; the legs are bare about an inch* above the knee, and these, as well as the toes are of a greenish cast. The above is extracted from Mr Montagu's description, who has given this bird as a new British species of the *Ardea* genus: it was shot in Dorsetshire in 1801; he suspects it to be a female, and also "that it may prove a sexual distinction only of some species obscurely known."

* Montagu's figure is not of this proportion, but about half an inch.





THE LITTLE BITTERN

(*Ardea minuta*, Linn.—*Le Blongin*, Buff.)

Is about the size of a Thrush. The bill from the tip to the base is in length one inch and seven-eighths; it is of a greenish yellow, dusky at the tip of the upper mandible, and the edges are jagged; the feathers on the top of the head are elongated behind: these, as well as the back and tail are black, with greenish reflections, and the secondary and primary quills are nearly the same; the neck is long, the hinder part of it bare of feathers, but those from the fore part fall back and cover it: the sides of the chin are dull white; the cheeks incline to chestnut; the neck, lesser coverts of the wings, lower part of the breast, and the thighs, are of a reddish buff; the greater coverts white; the

belly and vent yellowish dirty white: the feathers on the upper part of the breast are black, edged with pale buff, and are spread over part of the shoulders, breast, and wings; those below, which cover the breast to the thighs, are long and narrowly striped down the middle with pale brown; the legs and toes are dark green, and are nearly of the same length as the bill.

This species is very rarely met with any where in this country. The above figure was taken from a stuffed specimen, obligingly lent to this work by Sir M. W. Ridley, Bart. of Blagdon, Northumberland: the bird was shot there on the 10th May, 1810.





THE CINEREOUS GODWIT.

(*Scolopax Cinereus*,—Montagu.)

THIS bird is described at the proper place in the second volume of the History of British Birds. The figure has been drawn since, from a stuffed specimen, shot at Prestwick Crag, near Newcastle, in the breeding season, and on comparing it with another bird, newly killed, at Otterburn, Northumberland, in September, 1821, it was evidently the same species: the difference consisted in the latter being somewhat larger. It weighed five ounces and three quarters: length fourteen inches and a half; and to the end of the toes sixteen inches and five-eighths: breadth twenty-four inches and a half. The plumage on the upper parts were also darker than in the former specimen. In both, the back, breast, belly, and vent, were pure white; the tails were also white, but partly tinged with yellow, and barred with brownish wavy lines. Th.

legs and toes of both were dark green. The bill, in the stuffed specimen, measures from the tip to the brow nearly two inches, and is of a dark colour; both mandibles are partly grooved, but towards the tips they are smooth and slender, and bent upwards; the legs are long and bare of feathers nearly an inch and a half above the knees, and from thence to the tread of the foot measure about two inches and a quarter; a dull brownish spot occupies the space between the bill and the orbits of the eyes, and a dingy white stripe passes above and below them; from the brow over the crown of the head, and down the hinder part of the neck, it is streaked with brown and pale ash; the sides of the neck to the shoulders are also nearly the same, but paler; and the fore part is slightly sprinkled down towards the breast. The scapulars, greater coverts and tertials, are more or less of a bronze brown, edged and tipped with dull rusty white; the latter are also edged, indented, and tipped with the same, and somewhat barred on the outer webs with dark spots. The quills are dark brown, the shaft of the first is white, and most of them on the outer webs are slightly edged and tipped with reddish white.

From the changes which take place in the plumage of the *Scelopax* and *Tringa* Genera, ornithologists have always been puzzled in making out distinctly the different species, and we fear it will be long before their difficulties can be removed. Mr Pennant first gave the name of Cinerous Godwit to this bird, and from him Dr Latham, and then Col. Montagu have taken their descriptions; and here we would take occasion to remark, that the term Cinerous has always

proved to us a term of very ambiguous import. Sometimes it appears to designate a distinct colour, with its various hues: thus we have cinereous, pale cinereous, dark cinereous, &c. or it is used synonymously, as from its etymology it ought to be, if used at all, with ash-grey: at other times it is confounded with many of the varieties of brown and of white. Language not less vague is made use of, though perhaps not quite so frequently, in regard to all the other principal colours, scarcely any two writers appearing to attach the same idea to the same diversity of shade. The confusion to which this has given rise in ornithological descriptions, has often made us wish that naturalists would adopt some uniform standard by which the subject of colour might be regulated, and if possible, fixed. The "Nomenclature of Colours" of the distinguished Werner, (as enlarged and exemplified by Mr. Syme) would seem to present the requisite basis of such a standard. This arrangement, though hitherto confined to mineralogical details, might, if further systematized and extended, be applied with peculiar propriety to the descriptions of birds, in which colour forms so conspicuous a character. Indeed, without some such universal agreement, we despair of seeing descriptive writing of any sort ever exhibiting that accuracy and simplicity which is so desirable, and to a certain degree so easily attainable.



THE RED-BREASTED SNIPE.

(Scolopax newboracensis.)

MONTAGU says, " the weight of this species is seven ounces and three quarters; length fifteen inches; bill three inches long, a little reflected, and of a dusky colour, except at the base of the under mandible, which is pale; irides dusky; orbits white; crown of the head dusky, streaked with ferruginous; sides of the head, chin, throat, fore part of the neck, breast, belly, and sides bright bay, palest on the chin, and with a few solitary white feathers on the belly; round the vent, and under tail coverts, the feathers are white, tipped with bay; upper part of the neck behind ferruginous, slightly marked down the shafts with dusky; lower part of the hind neck, upper part of the back and scapulars dusky, spotted with ferruginous on the margin of the feathers; lower part of the back and rump white, with oblong dusky spots down the shafts; upper tail coverts barred dusky and ferruginous, becoming white at the base of the feathers; prime quills dusky black, the first six mottled with brown and white on the inner webs towards the base; the secondaries cinereous, margined and spotted with white; the shafts of all more or less white; greater coverts of the prime quills black; from the fifth tipped with white; those on the secondaries cinereous, the inner webs spotted with white; lesser coverts a mixture of dusky, cinereous and white, dashed with ferruginous, with a few feathers near the quills spotted ferruginous like the back; under wing

coverts white, elegantly barred and spotted with white; tail nearly even at the end, the two middle feathers rather the longest, the whole marked with eight or nine alternate bars of black and white quite to the base, forming, when the tail is spread, so many concentric semicircular bands; legs dusky black, two and a half inches long from the knee to the hock; bare space above the knee, scarcely three-quarters of an inch; toes margined, outer one connected as far as the first joint to the middle one. This bird was shot at Knightsbridge, 1803, and proved to be a female." There is scarcely any difference between the male and the female.





THE PIGMY SANDPIPER,

OR PIGMY CURLEW.

(*Tringa Pygmaea.*)

THIS rare bird has been hitherto described under the name of the "Pigmy Curlew," and was not removed from the place it held amongst the Curlews, until that indefatigable ornithologist, the late Col. Montagu cleared up the doubts respecting it, and removed it to the *Tringas*. The bill is black, slender, and slightly curved downwards; it is grooved on both mandibles, and measures two inches and one-eighth from the tip to the brow; the feathers on the crown of the head and nape are deep brown, with rusty tips and edges; a whitish streak, faintly spotted, passes from the bill over each eye, and a brown one extends in the same way underneath them; the throat is dull white;

the breast is plain reddish buff; the fore part and sides of the neck are of the same colour, but streaked with brown; the hinder part of the neck is darker, and streaked with ash-coloured brown; the upper parts of the plumage partake more or less of a glossy bronze olive brown, and most of the feathers are darkest near their margins, and edged and tipped with pale rusty white; the tertials are also edged and tipped with the same; the greater coverts are ash brown, with white edges and tips; the secondary quills are brown, edged with white on their outer webs; the inner ones are mostly white; the tail, which consists of twelve feathers, is brownish ash, edged and tipped with dull white; the belly, and upper and under coverts of the tail are more or less of a pure white; the legs and toes are slender, of a dark colour, and bare of feathers about half an inch above the knees, and from there an inch and a quarter long to the trend of the foot. Mr Montagu's description is somewhat different from the above, but whether it may arise from age or sex, we cannot determine. The stuffed specimen from which the foregoing figure and description were taken, was presented to the author by Mr Ballock, in the latter end of January, 1814; it was shot near Sunderland, among many other birds, which had been driven from their northern haunts by the extremity of the weather, during the very stormy winter of that year.





THE RED SANDPIPER.

(*Tringa Islandica.*)

THE above figure and description are taken from the stuffed specimen of a bird shot at Sunderland, in January of the severe winter of 1814, and also presented to this work by Mr Bullock, of the London Museum. The bill is rather thick at the base, black, grooved on both mandibles, and about an inch and a half long from the tip to the brow, whence, over the head and down the hinder part of the neck, it is streaked with rufous and dark brown; between the bill and the eyes, and the auriculars, it is spotted and streaked with the same colours; the shoulders, back, and scapulars are black, edged, tipped, and spotted with various shades of rufous, yellow, and dingy white, and the tertials are prettily indented with the same colours; the greater coverts are ash colour, tipped with white;

the bastard wing and primary quills are black, the former edged and largely tipped with white, and some of the latter slightly edged with the same, with the shafts also white; the neck, breast, and belly are of a rufous pale chestnut; the under coverts of the tail are white, dashed with patches of rufous and a few dusky spots; the rump and tail coverts are white, prettily marked with bars and spots of dark brown; the tail is ash colour. A stuffed specimen, and also a finished drawing of the same species, were sent to us by Mr Charles Fothergill: the plumage of the former, though somewhat discoloured in stuffing, was more prettily marked and variegated than that of our bird. This shews the changeable appearances the tribe assumes under the influence of age, season, or climate.





THE RED NECKED PHALAROPE.

(*Tringa hyperborea.*)

THE bill is an inch long, flattened and black at the tip; the rest of both mandibles are orange coloured; the head is capped with dusky mouse coloured brown, extending from the bill to the hinder part; the throat and about the corners of the mouth, are also of the same colour, but paler and inclining to ash; the cheeks and sides of the head are white, which, meeting at the nape, falls half way down the hinder part of the neck in a stripe, and gradually deepens into ash and dusky brown towards the shoulders; the latter, with the scapulars and tail coverts, are black, tipped, bordered, and striped with pale rusty yellow; the middle of the back, and the lesser and greater coverts are of a dusky ash, the latter tipped with white; the tertials and the exterior webs of the quills are dusky; but the greater part of the inner webs of the latter are pale ash, fading into white: the tail consists of twelve feathers, the two middle ones, which are the longest, are plain dusky

brown, the rest taper off in length, and turn lighter coloured as they shorten, and are margined on the outer webs with pale rusty yellow and white; the whole of the under parts, from the throat to the end of the vent feathers, are of a deep viscous chestnut; the legs are dusky, and the toes are scalloped like those of the Grey Phalarope, but the middle claws, which are short, hooked, and sharp, are both turned outward. The above description was taken from a male bird brought from Davis's Straits, where they are pretty numerous about the mouth of Hudson's river. Although they are very fat and plump, they are extremely active, and swim about nimbly in quest of their food, which chiefly consists of the slimy substance called whale's food, so frequently seen floating on the surface of the waters of the northern seas. They are occasionally met with on the British shores.

The author was furnished by Mr Charles Fothergill, with two stuffed specimens, male and female, and the eggs of these birds. The above figure was taken from the former. It differs in its plumage from the foregoing description: its head, and a narrow stripe on the front, another on the hinder part of the neck, which last spread over the shoulder, were of a dark ash colour: the throat white; the sides of the neck and breast are of a brilliant bay colour; the upper parts of the plumage are deep brown, nearly black, the under parts white. The bird must have been improperly dried in the stuffing, as its bill and the scalloped toes seemed much shrivelled up. The eggs, four in number, like others of the *Tringa* genus, were very large; they were of a dingy olive, blotched and spotted with brown.



THE BLACK-BILLED AUK.

(*Alca Pica*, Lin.—*Le Petit Pingouin*, Buff.)

THESE birds weigh from sixteen to twenty ounces, and measure in length from fifteen to sixteen inches, and in breadth from twenty-four to twenty-eight. The bill is black, compressed, and slightly ridged and furrowed on the sides, but more or less so in different subjects, and some of them have a white line across each mandible, while others have the bill nearly quite plain and smooth; an obscure white line extends from the upper mandible to the eye, behind which are a mixture of dark brown and dirty white feathers, obscurely divided to the hinder part of the head; the inside of the mouth is yellow; irides hazel; the upper part of the head, and a streak below each eye, are black, as are also the whole of the upper parts of its silky plumage, including the wings and the tail, excepting the tips and

the secondary quills, which are white; all the under parts, from the chin to the vent, are also white; the legs black. From the similarity in some of the markings of these birds and of the Razor-bill and Foulish Guillemot, ornithologists have been led to consider them as varieties of the same species; but this opinion Mr. Montagu combats, we think, very successfully. He has treated largely on this subject, and is satisfied that they are distinct species. The Razor-bills and Foulish Guillemots mostly leave the arctic regions, to breed and rear their young in more southern climes, and for that purpose, in the summer months, are seen in flocks of immense numbers, on the rocky promontories and isles of the British shores, which they leave in the autumn. The Black-billed Auks and lesser Guillemots, on the contrary, remain to breed, also in immense numbers, in Iceland, Greenland, &c. in the continued day light of summer, and disperse southward on the approach of the winter cold, and darkness of the frigid zone.





THE BLACK TERN.

(*Sterna fuscipes*, Lin.—*L'Eponaxetail*, Buff.)

THIS bird generally measures ten inches in length, and twenty-four in breadth, and weighs about two ounces and a half. The bill is black, and from the tip to the brow is about an inch and a quarter long; the head, neck, breast, and under part, as far as the thighs, black; the lower belly and vent pale ash; the upper parts of the plumage, including the wings and tail, are of a dark hoary lead coloured blue; the tail is not greatly forked, nor long, and in most specimens, the exterior webs of the two outside feathers of the tail are white; the legs and feet crimson, and the claws black; the female does not differ materially in her appearance from the male.

This species, like the rest of the Terns, frequents the sea shores in summer, but its habits and manners are somewhat different. It does not associate with

them; it has a shriller cry; its evolutions are more rapid, and its turns, while on the wing, are shorter; it seems to prefer the rivers, fens, marshes, and lakes inland, to the sea. It builds its nest among reeds and rushes, in marshy places, with flags and coarse grass, upon a tuft, just above the surface of the water. It lays about four eggs, of a dirty greenish colour, spotted and encircled with black about the thicker end. It feeds on beetles, maggots, and other insects, as well as on small fishes. Ornithologists and voyagers say it is met with at Hudson's Bay, Newfoundland, and Iceland, and that it is common in Siberia, and the Salt Lakes in the deserts of Tartary. Our figure was drawn from a stuffed specimen in the Museum at Ravensworth Castle.





THE ROSEATE TERN.

(*Sterna Douglasii*.)

Mr. Montagu mentions this elegant looking bird as an undescribed species of Tern; and from the white feathers of the whole under parts being tinged with a most delicate rosy blush, he has named it as above. The bill is slender, slightly curved, and about an inch and two eighths long, it is jet black excepting at the base of both mandibles, where it is of a bright orange; the irides are black; the head is also black, and the feathers elongated down the back part of the neck; the upper parts of the plumage are pale cinerous grey; the quill feathers are narrow, the shafts white, the first has the exterior web black, with a hoary tinge; the others are also hoary next the shafts, and all margined deeply on the inner webs with white to the tips; the tail is greatly forked, extremely slender, and extends two inches beyond the closed wings; the legs and feet, including the bare space of about half an inch above

the knees, are of a bright red colour; the claws black and hooked. The specimen from which Mr Montagu describes this bird, was, with several others, shot in the West Highlands of Scotland, in July, 1812, and presented to him by Dr McDougall, of Glasgow, who also, in his communications respecting these birds, points out the difference between them and the other species of Terns, which swarmed in their company on the same rocky islands. The above figure was taken from a stuffed specimen of a bird shot on the Fern Isles, in June, 1820, where several of them, at various times, have been killed.



THE GULL-BILLED TERN.

(Sterns Anglica.)

THIS bird was first pointed out as a distinct species by Mr Montagu, it having before been confounded with the Sandwich Tern, from which, he says, it differs in a variety of respects. The bill is about an inch and a half long, thick, strong, and angulated on the under mandible like the bill of a Gull, and wholly black; the upper part of the head, taking in the eyes, is black, which extends down part of the neck; the upper parts of the plumage, including the tail and its upper coverts, are cinereous, the outer feathers of the tail, on each side, only being white. The quills are hoary, but the tips of the first five are black, for an inch or more, without the smallest margin of white on that part: part of the inner webs are white, but it does not quite reach the margins, the very edges being dusky for half the length of the feathers. The legs rather exceed two inches in length from the heel to the knee, their colour rufous black; the toes are longer than those of the Sandwich Tern, especially the middle one, and the claws unusually straight.





THE YOUNG KITTIWAKE.

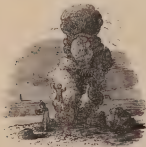
MONTAGU gives a figure and description of this bird as a species of Gull hitherto rarely met with on the British shores, which he calls the *Larus minutus*, or Little Gull, and describes it thus:—"Length rather exceeding ten inches; length of the bill to the feathers on the forehead, more than three quarters of an inch; the upper mandible straight for half its length from the base, the other half considerably arcuated; lower mandible straight to the angle, from whence it slopes to the point; the inside of the mouth red orange; the forehead and crown white; the back part of the head and nape dark cinereous, with a hoary tinge; behind the eyes a white streak; the lower coverts of the ears black; the whole upper part of the body is of a fine cinereous grey, except the lower part of the back, which is black, and the upper coverts of

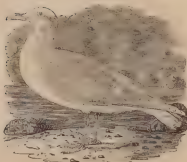
the tail pure white, with some of the feathers tipped with dusky; the tail feathers are white, tipped more or less with black; the wings have a mixture of black, white, and cinereous, but the former greatly predominates; the ridge of the wing is cinereous, intermixed with dusky, all the rest of the coverts are black, several of the lower series slightly tipped with white; the greater quills are elegantly marked, being white, with the exterior web and part of the inner one, close to the shaft, the tip and part of the inner margin, black, more or less tipped with spots of white; the secondaries are more or less cinereous on the outer web, edged with dusky black towards the base, their tips and inner webs white; the tertials are mostly black, with a slight edging of white at the tip; the whole under parts are pure white; the legs are yellowish, and rather more than an inch in length to the knee, and are bare a quarter of an inch above it."

It was shot on the banks of the Thames, near Chelsea, and is in the collection of Mr Plasted, of that place. It is said to be a native of the southern parts of Siberia and Russia, and the shores of the Caspian sea. He describes it as being in its immature plumage, or in an intermediate state or first change between the nestling and the adult state.

Our figure is taken from a stuffed specimen of the same kind of bird, lent to us by Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart.; it was shot on the Durham coast in 1816. The bill is dusky, and measures from the tip to the brow one inch and an eighth; the auriculars are tipped with black; the tail is also tipped with the same, the two outer feathers the longest. The lower part of

the back in our specimen is not black. In most other respects it differs so little from Mr Montagu's description, that we cannot help viewing them as belonging to the same species. Mr H. Edmondston, of Newcastle, surgeon, upon whose accuracy in this instance we can depend, and who is well acquainted with the various sea-fowl of the Shetland Isles, considers the bird here figured to be the young of the Kittiwake, originally the *Larus Tridactylus* (the Tarruck) now the *Larus Rissoi* and *Linnæus*. We are farther assured by Mr Blackett, who farms the Fern Islands, and who has seen thousands of these birds, that our figure represents a Kittiwake in its first year's plumage; and it is, we believe, the first time that the young Kittiwake has been figured as such.





THE ICELAND GULL.

(Larus Islandicus.)

THE above figure and the following one were taken from stuffed specimens lent to this work by Mr Laurence Edmondston, and the descriptions of both extracted from his papers, which have been read to the Wernerian Society of Edinburgh. We are inclined to concur with him in considering this as a new species not hitherto noticed as a British bird. He has known them in that part of the country, since the autumn of 1809, when he obtained the first specimen, which was lost; but in November, 1814, he shot another, which (with a detailed description) was presented to the museum of Mr Bullock, where it continued to be exhibited till the dispersion of that valuable collection. Mr

E. describes the bird when mature as being clothed with a Swan-like plumage, very full, the down on the body considerable, altogether rendering it almost impenetrable to any shot but that of the largest description, and as weighing five pounds; its breadth from tip to tip of the wings five feet two inches; the length from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail two feet five inches. The back and upper part of the wings very pale blue; head and neck faintly streaked with dull grey. The rest of the plumage and the primary quills white; irides pale yellow; the bill the same, but of a deeper cast, and the knob on the under mandible is reddish orange. The legs and feet much like those of the Herring Gull, but larger: the claws are dusky and rather blunt. Its place of breeding is unknown, it is regularly migratory, commonly in small flocks, arriving in the Zetland islands about the middle of autumn, and departing towards the end of spring. Its flight is more equal and measured, and has less of that Kite-like soaring than others of this tribe. Mr E. describes it as being also more powerful, and equally voracious, and calls it a marine Vulture. From these and other peculiarities in its habits and manners, he has ventured to characterise it as a distinct species, by its present name. He has likewise observed it on the shores of the Baltic, and believes it to be a native of the higher latitudes.*

* This bird would seem to bear some resemblance to the *Larus Glaucus*, as the specimen shot by Mr James Ross, midshipman of the *Isabella*, and to the *Larus Argentatus*, all as described by Captain Sabine, in his *Memoir on the Birds of Greenland*, as published in the twelfth volume of the *Transactions of the Linnean Society*, London, 1818.



THE YOUNG ICELAND GULL.

THE above figure was taken from the stuffed specimen of the bird before it had attained its full plumage: it is mottled much in the same way as the *Wagel*, but the colours are different, the ground colour of the whole plumage being of a dull white, and the spots of a pale dingy brown: the bill is of a dark horn colour, length from the tip to the brow an inch and a half, and to the corners of the mouth, nearly three inches: the legs and toes of a pale flesh colour, the former two inches and a half long: the irides are of a silvery grey: the whole length of the bird between two and three feet;

breadth above five feet. By the fishermen of Zetland, it is called the Iceland Scorie, Scorie being the name given there indiscriminately to the young of the three most familiar species of the Gull tribe; hence Mr Edmondston conjectures it must at least be known in Iceland.





THE HERRING GULL.

(*Larus fuscus*, Lin.—*Le Goïland à mantean gris foncé*, ou *le Bourgmestre*, Buff.)

THIS species is described at page 196 of the second volume of the British Birds, and the difference between that description, and the stuffed specimen from which the above figure was made, is so trivial, as not to require any remarks upon it.

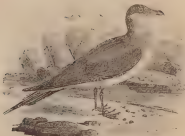
This species of Gull is rendered remarkable by its keeping watch over the safety of all birds, and even seals, within the reach of its warnings; for upon the approach of the sportsman with his gun, it seems all upon the alert, and by its clamorous well known cries intimates their danger.



THE LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL.

(*Larus Argentatus*, Montagu.)

THIS bird is similar in appearance to the Black-backed Gull described at page 154 of the second volume of the British Birds, but is much less, and is not quite so dark on the back as that bird is described to be. In the stuffed specimen presented to this work by Mr Laurence Edmondston, the upper plumage is of a dark bluish lead colour: the greater coverts, scapulars, and secondaries the same, but tipped with white; the primary quills, which are, in all the visible parts, of a dark brown, are also tipped with white; the rest of the plumage white; the eye-lids red; irides pale yellow: the bill the same, but of a much deeper tinge, and the angular knob of the under mandible is reddish orange; the legs yellow.



THE ARCTIC GULL.

(*Larus parasiticus*, Lin.—*Le Laitre à longue queue*, Buff.)

THIS Gull is described at page 217 of the second volume of British Birds. The above figure is taken from a stuffed specimen, presented to this work by Mr Laurence Edmondston, and does not differ materially from that description, only the cheeks, throat, and neck are more mixed and streaked with dull yellow; legs and feet black. In his paper respecting this bird, published in the Edinburgh Philosophical Journal, Mr E. expresses his decided opinion that this white-breasted bird is not a distinct species from the one that is wholly brown, and that the difference arises only from their age. He likewise (and Dr Edmondston in a former number of the same Journal) fully confirms the conjectures of Montagu as to the identity of the

young of this bird, and the Gull hitherto described as the *Larus Cregulatus*, or Black-toed Gull. He further adds, hardly any birds of its size are secure from the attacks of this Aquatic Hawk; when stimulated by hunger, it hesitates not to assault them, to compel them to disgorge their food. That singular instinct, which seems to condemn it to depend for its chief supply of food on the superior industry or dexterity of other birds, irresistibly impelling it to follow the main body of those caterers for its subsistence, in their great periodical migrations.





THE LOUGH DIVER.

A description of this bird is given at page 244 of the British Water Birds, differing only very slightly from this specimen, the bill of which measures from the tip to the brow very little more than an inch; the head and hinder part of the neck are of a rusty chestnut; the upper part, and sides of the breast, to the wings, are darkish ash, tipped with grey; the shoulders and upper part of the back are clouded with dusky and grey; the lower part of the back is uniformly of the former colour, but towards the rump, the feathers are edged and tipped with a lighter colour; the tail consists of sixteen dark hoary grey feathers; and the scapulars partake much of the same colours; the sides are ash colour; the belly and vent white.

In the month of January, 1820, during a severe frost, three of these birds made their appearance on the River Tyne, and were all killed at one shot; they were nearly all alike. This figure was drawn from one of them, after it had been stuffed.



THE CRAVAT OR CANADA GOOSE.

(*Anas Canadensis*,—*L'Oie à Cravate*, Buff.)

THIS figure was taken from a specimen presented to this work by Mr Henry Mewburn, of St German's, in Cornwall; the bird was shot there in January, 1819. The description already given at page 258, *British Water Birds*, Vol. II. nearly corresponds with the above, only there it has been omitted to notice that the feathers are margined with very pale dull brown, and that the upper and under tail coverts, and the vent, are pure white.



THE WHITE-FRONTED WILD GOOSE.

OR LAUGHING GOOSE.

(*Anas Albifrons*.—*L'Oie risant*, Buff.)

THIS bird is described at page 275 of the second volume of British Birds. That description in some slight particulars, differs from the specimen from which the above figure was taken. The head and neck of this are of a tawny brown, and the feathers of the shoulders, back, and coverts, margined more or less with that colour: the irregular patches or bars which cross the breast and belly, are dusky, and tipped with white, and various shades of dull or dirty pale brown.



THE CASTANEOUS DUCK.

(Anas nigra.)

A coloured drawing, from which the above figure was engraved, was presented to this work by the Hon. William Curzon, of Long Stanton Rectory, near Cambridge. He esteemed it a very rare bird, not having seen it before, nor its description in any work on ornithology. It was shot on a pond near the little village of Hare-street, Essex. Montagu, after many doubts, and much investigation, says, it has only lately been considered a new British species, having before been confounded with the Ferruginous Duck of Mr Pennant; and he acknowledges his obligations to Mr Fuljame, for enabling him, from three specimens in his museum, to consider this as being distinct from the Ferruginous Duck, and has affixed the name as above, and given a description of it, which nearly

corresponds with the above figure.* He says, in describing the male, that it weighs thirty-three ounces, and measures in length sixteen inches and a half; the females measured and weighed more. The bill from the tip to the brow is one inch and three-quarters long, deep at the base, flattish at the point, and of a dark lead colour, with the nail black; the irides yellow; the head, upper part of the neck, and breast, are of a brilliant dark reddish chestnut; the sides, and the feathers which cover the thighs, are also of that colour, but of a duller cast, and the belly the same, but much mottled and broken with white; the tail, rump, and upper tail coverts black; the under pure white, which forms a strong contrast with the black, which drops down before the vent feathers towards the thighs; the upper plumage is dusky brown; a collar of the same colour surrounds the middle of the neck, and passing behind, becomes uniform with the colour of the shoulders and the back; the secondary quills are black at the tips, and white at the base, and form the speculum or oblique bar across the closed wing; the quills are short, reaching only to the rump, near the root of the tail; the legs dusky.

* On comparing our drawing, after the cut was done, with a stuffed specimen from Haversworth museum, we find Mr. Comber's drawing tolerably accurate.





THE MUSK DUCK.

CAIRO, GUINEA, OR INDIAN DUCK.

(Anas platyrhynchos, Lin.—Le Canard Musque, Buff.)

THIS species is much larger than the Common Duck, measuring about two feet in length. The irides are pale yellow: the bill from the tip to the protuberance on the brow, is more than two inches long. Domestication, from time to time, has made a great variation in the plumage of these birds, but they are all alike in having a fleshy knob on the base of the bill, and a naked, red, warty or carunculated skin extending from that and the chin to above the eyes, and in having the crown of the head rather tufted and black which they can erect at pleasure. The legs are

short and thick, and as well as the toes, vary in different birds from a red to a yellow colour.

Ornithologists are in doubt as to the country to which these birds originally belonged: it is, however, agreed, that they are natives of the warm climates. Mr Pennant says they are met with, wild, about the lake Baikal, in Asia; Ray, that they are natives of Louisiana; Maregrave, that they are met with in Brazil; and Buffon, that they are found in the overflowed savannas of Guiana, where they feed in the day-time upon the wild rice, which grows there in abundance, and return in the evening to the sea: he adds, "they nestle on the trunks of rotten trees; and after the young are hatched, the mother takes them one after another by the bill and throws them into the water." It is said that great numbers of the young breed are destroyed by the alligators, which are common in those parts.

These birds have obtained the name of Musk Duck, from their musky smell, which arises from the liquor secreted in the glands on the rump. They breed readily with the Common Duck, forming an intermediate kind, better suited to the table than either of the parents.

In former editions of this work, the description of the plumage of these birds was taken from other ornithologists, whose accuracy cannot be doubted. The bill red, except about the nostrils and tip, where it is brown; the cheeks, throat, and fore part of the neck, white, irregularly marked with black: the belly, from the breast to the thighs, white. The general colour of the rest of the plumage is deep brown, darkest, and glossed with green, on the back, rump, quills, and

tail; the two outside feathers of the latter, and the first three of the quills, are white.

The above is the general appearance of the Musk Duck; but the living specimen from which our figure was drawn, was, excepting the head, entirely white. The bird was kindly lent to this work by William Losh, Esq. of Point Pleasant, near Newcastle, who has had a breed of them for several years. The original pair came from France: they were white, and their progeny continue the same. They are completely domesticated, but the smallest disturbance will cause them to abandon the nest. They are easily reared, producing at a hatching eight, ten, or twelve, according to the care bestowed upon them.



CONTENTS OF THE SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

BRITISH WATER BIRDS.

	PAGE
The Olivaceous Gallinule	3
The Little Gallinule	5
The Little White Heron	7
The Squacco Heron	8
The Freckled Heron	9
The Little Bittern	11
The Cinerous Godwit	13
The Red-breasted Snipe	16
The Pigmy Sandpiper	18
The Red Sandpiper	20
The Red-necked Phalarope	22
The Black-billed Ask	24
The Black Tern	26
The Roseate Tern	28
The Gull-billed Tern	30
The Young Kittiwake	31
The Iceland Gull	34
The Young Iceland Gull	36
The Herring Gull	38
The Lesser Black-backed Gull	39
The Arctic Gull	40
The Lough Diver	42
The Cravat, or Canada Goose	43
The white-fronted Wild Goose	44
The Castaneous Duck	45
The Musk Duck	47



